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Comment Of The Day

DEMAND FOR TELEPHONES

YESTERDAY'S announcement by the Telephone Company is not only a welcome statement of intentions but a timely answer to a growing chorus of criticism. What it tells is that by October next year most of the present applications for new telephone lines will be met and the rest will not have much longer to wait for a connection. For beginning Saturday a massive development plan to catch up on the backlog goes into operation. This alone should be sufficient to subside the critics and there is further food for thought in the fact that the number of exchange lines connected has quadrupled in the last 12 years. Meeting this huge demand has undoubtedly taxed the company's staff and equipment to the limit and seems to explain to a large extent the delays that the Colony has experienced. It would also seem that there have been surprisingly protracted negotiations with Government over sites for new exchanges—notably in North Point which took 18 months to finalize.

Kowloon

ONE satisfactory feature of the Telephone Company's statement is that it intends to deal with Kowloon's substantial waiting list at a faster rate than Hongkong's which has less than half the number of applicants. It may not have been designed this way but the company rightly sees Kowloon as the big centre of development and has taken steps in recent years to develop its facilities there.

There are critics who have called for a Commission of Inquiry into the Colony's telephone service. But while we sympathize with all who have been waiting a year or two for their connection, is there any evidence to show that Hongkong is worse off than other cities which have undergone a parallel development? It is very doubtful.

Monopolies

THE delays that have occurred no doubt reinforce dislike of monopolies but it is only in comparatively recent times that the Colony has been able to think in terms of competitive utilities. Our view is that the company in its race to catch up with demand is running as fast as its legs will carry it. It is a pity Mr. Cleland did not add something to this effect in his statement. It would have softened tempers somewhat. But the news he gave is good and the Colony shares his hope that in four years, the company will be at least fully abreast of public demand. Dial E for Expansion!

Chinese May Dance With Princess

Melbourne, Sept. 3. Ming Chueh, 26, a Malayan Chinese from Singapore, was selected today as one of the group of three students from which the official dancing partners for Britain's Princess Alexandra at the Melbourne Royal Ball on September 22 will be selected.

But Ming, a student at the Royal Melbourne Technical College, told reporters: "I don't think I have much chance to be

SCHOOLBOY CHALLENGES TOP BRAINS

New York, Sept. 3. A schoolboy today interrupted an assembly of the top brains in all fields of science to challenge the findings of leading British and American scientists which claimed a lower intelligence level among negroes than whites.

The boy who later disappeared before he could be identified, told Professor Philip Vernon, of the University of London, who was addressing the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, that the findings were false.

Leapt To Feet

Professor Vernon had said that the difference between the scores of whites and negroes in intelligence tests could not be accounted for by environment and education.

The young challenger then leapt to his feet and said: "History is not one of my best subjects but I understand the American negroes are descended from slaves taken there from Africa."

It is reasonable to assume, then, that they are descended from the ones that were not able to escape the slavers."

Professor Vernon confessed that history was not one of his best subjects either, but conceded that the point was interesting.—Reuters.

More Deaths As Rioting Spreads To Indian Towns

Calcutta, Sept. 3. Violent rioting in Howrah caused the death of 12 persons, while two more were killed in Calcutta today.

The death toll for the disturbances, which started on Tuesday, have now reached 23 according to official statements, although unofficial estimates place the total at 25 dead.

A police spokesman said today that 139 people have been injured by police fire, as the security forces sought to control the mobs using home made bombs and other weapons, protesting against the Congress Government's food policy.

Many tonight chased railway personnel from the station at Akarpara, 20 miles from Calcutta and set fire to the building. In Calcutta meanwhile, police opened fire on rioters, killing two and injuring 19.

HOOLIGANISM

The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, said the riots had "nothing to do with a democratic movement." They were caused, he said, by "hooliganism and anti-social elements trying to get the upper hand."

The riots were started by rival factions in a jute factory while a general strike called by the Communist-dominated price increase and famine resistance committee was in progress. A Communist Party spokesman said: "No adequate language can condemn the savage violence let alone the government in a desperate bid to break the general strike."

Laotian Army Airlifting Reinforcements

Sam Neua, Laos, Sept. 4. The Laotian army airlifted reinforcements into this strategic provincial capital on Thursday as the Communists were reported to have massed a huge force for an assault on Sam Neua.

Brigadier General Soukhavong Amkha, regional commander for four provinces, said intelligence reports indicated that the main body of Pathet Lao troops was moving south from Moungket and Xieng Kho toward the broad plain 20 miles from Sam Neua.

The army began airlifting a new battalion into Sam Neua on Thursday and elements of a second are expected to arrive as fast as planes can carry them. Two minor skirmishes were reported during the last 24 hours.

No Recognition Of China

Paris, Sept. 3. The United States served notice today that it did not contemplate the recognition of China nor to support that nation's admission to the United Nations.

President Eisenhower personally gave this assurance at a meeting with Italy's Prime Minister, Mr. Antonio Segni.—UPI.

The Communists raided a small village on the Moung Kain seven miles from Sam Neua early on Thursday and were engaged by government troops. It was a hit-and-run raid likely intended to demonstrate to the villagers the strength of Pathet Lao.

Village Raid

On Wednesday a brief fire fight was reported at Banhok 15 miles from Sam Neua. Neither engagement was regarded as tactically significant.

The government now has seven battalions stationed in Sam Neua province, roughly equivalent in power to the Communist troops who are believed to have about 3,500.

General Amkha said the Communists, which included Vietnamese, were concentrating four battalions at a point south of Duong and Xieng Kho, two towns which were among the six captured on Sunday.

The Reds were requisitioning rice and cattle from villagers and farmers and were forming harbour brigades to carry supplies across the Namoun River, which represented the inner frontier.

Refugees

Refugees fleeing from the river area told the Laotian army that the Communists used pontoon bridges to get supplies including what appears to be heavy weapons across the river.

Laotian officials said Sam Neua town had only 500 kilos of rice to feed 20,000 civilians and army personnel until the air drop on Thursday. They also said that there is a great need for bigger and more stockpiles as the present supply was inadequate.—UPI.

WORLD TOUR IN A CAR

Singapore, Sept. 3. Two young Frenchmen have reached Singapore in a two-horsepowered car which has taken them 53,000 miles through Africa, the American continent, Japan, Hongkong and Saigon.

They are Jacques Sequela, a pharmacist who is surveying the world market for medicinal plants, and Jean Claude Baudou, a lawyer who is studying transcontinental road systems. They said the only travel restrictions they met were in China, where they were refused entry.

Todd-AO Cinema For HK

By ANTHONY FULLER
China Mail Film Correspondent

The Todd-AO cinema projection system is to come to Hongkong. The film selected is the Rodgers and Hammerstein "South Pacific."

It will be shown at one cinema only, in Hongkong, which is at present in the course of erection.

The Todd-AO system is so complex that it requires a projection box at the same level as the screen, and so intense is the light that the film has to be fed through a refrigerator.

All these requirements can be met, and the film should open in Hongkong on Chinese New Year.

20th Century Fox are bringing the film out here, and they are confident that "South Pacific" will receive the enthusiastic acclaim it has received in London, Tokyo, and New York.

Once "South Pacific" finishes its run, the cinema will revert to the ordinary 35mm projector.

The success of this run will determine whether Todd-AO will be a feature of Hongkong cinemas in future.

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Body Of Missing Boy Found

The body of eight-year-old Geoffrey Bourne was found this morning in the Yau-mat typhoon shelter.

The boy was last seen alive playing on the hillsides near a stream in Kowloon Tong on Wednesday afternoon.

An extensive Police search yesterday following the discovery of a raincoat and a pair of shoes by a nullah near his home led the Police and the Army to the conclusion that the boy had been swept away in the torrent and drowned.

The boy, who was identified this morning at the public mortuary, was the son of Mr and Mrs G. A. Bourne of Durham Court, Kowloon.

Mr Bourne is a Warrant Officer, Class 1, REME.

Soviet 'Spy' Scare In Bonn

Pruem, Sept. 3. Police throughout the West German state of Rhineland-Palatinate were alerted to search for four "Soviet parachutist spies" today, after a man detained by police here told them "I am a Russian agent."

But the alarm ended when the man was identified as a 32-year-old German from Dusseldorf. Police said he had been arrested and would be charged with misleading the authorities, and the search for the other "parachutists" was called off.

First reports of the incident caused a flood of telephone calls from as far away as Paris and Rome to the police post in Pruem, near the border with Belgium and Luxembourg. The Defence Ministry in Bonn and the State Interior Ministry both started investigations.

Mentally ill. But, as more facts became known, official doubts about the incident increased. Pruem police said the man gave his name as "Ivan" and "could possibly be mentally ill."

The man hinted that he had dropped with four other parachutists from a Soviet plane to spy on secrets. He had no papers and could not be immediately identified. The man claimed to speak Russian, German, French and English—but there was nobody who could check this.

Finally the State Interior Ministry in Mainz sent a man, who knows Russian to Pruem to find out whether the "Russian spy" could speak the language.—Reuters.

WOMAN BLOWN TO BITS

Seattle, Sept. 3. Police sought today three boys who were seen running from the area just before a 62-year-old widow was blown to bits by a home-made bomb left on her front porch in a brown paper bag.

A neighbour said the three fled the scene in a car driven at high speed without lights. The explosion last night came only a moment after a neighbour had shouted to the victim, Mrs Pearl Kongole, "Pearl, don't touch it; don't touch it; it might be a bomb."

Remnants of Mrs Kongole's clothing and fragments of wood from her house were found 80 yards away.

Police said, "We don't know what was in the bag. But whatever it was, it was potent."

A Fort Lawton army specialist who made a laboratory test of the woman's body said the explosive probably was "some kind of nitrate," possibly in liquid form such as nitroglycerine.

Mrs Kongole recently had sold her home and had planned to leave shortly on an extensive trip.—UPI.

DARING ROBBERY ATTEMPT

London, Sept. 3. Hooded bandits rammed a mail van with their car in East London today but were fought off by two post office workers.

The robbers waiting in a side street drove at the mail van as it passed along the main road, then jumped out and attacked the driver and his companion who could check this.

A third postal man in another van who went to the rescue was hit on the head and taken to hospital.—China Mail Special.

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U.S. Plans To Shoot Man Into Space Next Year

Stuttgart, Sept. 3. Dr Werner Von Braun, German-born United States rocket expert, said here today that the United States planned to make its first attempt at shooting a man into space next year.

Dr Von Braun, who was lecturing here to the Stuttgart "International Round Table" Society, said this first attempt would take the form of a man being sent on a ballistic flight of about 185 miles in a Redstone rocket.

He would re-enter the earth's atmosphere after six minutes in space. This would test a man's physical and emotional reaction to the return from an orbit flight. The man would be given the opportunity "in case of emergency" to release his capsule, and parachute back to earth.

Dr Von Braun said it was planned later to send a man into orbit around the earth with an Atlas rocket, which has a range of 5,000 miles.

He said that immediately after his return to the United States, the United States Army planned to put into orbit a new satellite weighing 98 pounds.

This would have measuring devices to ascertain what percentage of the sun's energy reached the earth, and what percentage was reflected back into space by clouds.

The satellite would circle the earth 10 times daily and cover all parts of the earth. It would also measure "soft" X-rays, the ultra violet spectrum of the sun, the number of protons and electrons in the earth's radiation belt, and a meteorite counter would measure the number and force of meteor particles encountered by the satellite.

The information would be relayed back to earth by two radios on the satellite.

Dr Von Braun also spoke of another project, the "Saturn" rocket which he called "the biggest and most ambitious project in the United States or even in the whole world."

Work had already begun on the "Saturn" which would be a three or four stage rocket 230 feet long and 25 feet broad. The first stage alone would have eight motors of 30 times the thrust of a V2 rocket.

The 85-foot long nose of the "Saturn" rocket on the test stand next year.

Anything Wrong?



Notice anything different about this game photographed in London? Look hard... Someone seems to have cut off the rifle butt level with the Guardman's knee.

He is carrying the new Belgian FN rifle and an entirely new drill has had to be worked out for it.—London Express Photo.

A 1959 Look At Miracles

THIS week the Saturday China Mail presents a startling article in the series by Geoffrey Ashe, "Are The Gospels True?"

In tomorrow's absorbing chapter, the noted writer examines in the cold light of today's scientific reasoning the miracles so vividly described in the Bible... and comes up with his answers.

Also included in the bumper issue of the China Mail are: ★ Tunnel of Love Beats Law... our correspondent describes the effect of Britain's recent crackdown on street-walkers; ★ A Message for Colonel Whitmore... another in the series, "Did It Happen?" ★ Will Your Child Grow Up To Be Like You?... a psychological quiz every parent MUST try.

And all your favourite comics, cartoons, puzzles, pages for women, children, sportsmen, in addition to all latest news and views. Take home a China Mail tomorrow!